

The Strangers



White House a Prison?

The assassination of President Kennedy led, inevitably, to a drastic tightening of the security precautions provided for the Chief Executive. It is reported, for instance, that when President Johnson recently made a brief visit to New York City, to attend the funeral of the late Senator Lehman, the security measures taken exceeded anything hitherto known.

There is certainly good reason for concern. Of the 36 Presidents of the United States, four have died at the hands of assassins. Additionally, an attempt was made to kill President-elect Franklin Roosevelt, but Mayor Cermak of Chicago, riding beside him, was the victim. Would-be assassins tried the next-to-impossible act of reaching President Truman in his upstairs living quarters at Blair House. A guard was killed.

So one can understand the profound worry of the Secret Service and of the local authorities in places where Presidents visit. Yet it could be that security would become so complete that the ability of the President to properly perform his duties would be impaired.

That is the theme of former President Eisenhower, writing in a late issue of *The Saturday Evening Post*. He fears there is some danger that, in the cause of safety, the White House could be made a "virtual prison." For, he believes, "It is the very combination of powers vested in the Presidency which makes it highly desirable that the President be free to travel widely, to keep personally in touch with the people of the country, and to see with his own eyes what is going on in the world." General Eisenhower was a much-traveled President, and he feels the travels of future Presidents may be much more extensive. So, he says, "We should give greater attention to reducing the risks without limiting the President's necessary freedom of movement." This, obviously, is no small problem, but General Eisenhower is sure that study will result in the needed methods of achieving the goal.

In his brief article he also deals with another problem—that is the order of succession to the Presidency after the Vice President. Formerly, the Secretary of State was next, followed by the other cabinet members in order of seniority. In 1947 the law was changed, with the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate taking precedence over the cabinet. The theory was that elected, rather than appointed, officials should come first. But General Eisenhower disagrees with this view and favors the previous system. For one thing, as he points out, a Congressman is elected in only a single district and a Senator in only a single state, so they cannot be automatically considered national choices. More important, "In these days it is not unusual for the executive branch to be of a different political faith from the majority in both or either of the houses of Congress." So, possibly, a man could succeed who was entirely out of sympathy with the policies of his predecessor, and a critical disorganization could result. In other words, General Eisenhower believes that any successor to the Presidency should hold, generally, a similar political philosophy. This, in all likelihood, would be true of cabinet officers.

Finally, one more line from the former President's article certainly deserves the widest currency: "We must and we shall rally behind our new President, Lyndon B. Johnson, who now has undertaken the most demanding and important office in our land."

We're on the Spot

"We are in a moment of unmatched national peril. Our opponents . . . are very clearly and willingly pledged to our destruction."

This grim warning comes from a recognized authority on communism—Dr. Richard Walker, Director of the Institute of International Studies at the University of South Carolina. Speaking before a group of Oregon school board members and administrators, he added this about the communist powers: "We tend to underestimate them. We blindly preach the doctrine that Democratic forms of government are the only ones which survive. But the truth is that most of the historically influential governments through the years have been despotic."

"We must realize the American democratic system is a rare exception to world government rule. We can be pushed into the dust bin of history if we do not educate our students to understand other governments and to protect our own."

That last sentence represents the core of Dr. Walker's message. Our schools, he feels—and all the available evidence supports him—are just not doing the needed kind of job in teaching pride in the United States, and the meaning of communism and the threat it is to every freedom we know. There are many deficiencies in this country's educational complex—and that is certainly one of the worst.

Opinions of Others

Leonard L. Lovshin, M.D., in a speech made to a group of physicians, said: "If a woman patient repeatedly tells you during history-taking that her husband is 'just wonderful' you're dealing with a neurotic. I'm a husband, most of my friends are husbands, and I don't know of a wonderful one in the lot. If your patient will admit to herself that she's married to a typically inconsiderate slob, chances are she's normal."

A five-cent commemorative stamp marking the 100th anniversary of the Red Cross has just been issued. It depicts the work of the American Red Cross between December 1962 and July 1963 in the release of 1,113 Bay of Pigs prisoners and over 7,800 civilians from Cuba. This project is regarded as a good example of the unique humanitarian activities of the world-wide Red Cross during the past century.

ROYCE BRIER

Presidential Succession Now Badly Deranged

Under the system of Presidential succession existing until 1947, the Secretary of State was next in order after the vice president. Other Cabinet officers followed in arbitrary order.

But when a vice president succeeded, the vice presidential office was vacant until the next election, though no President who has been vice president has ever died in office.

The Constitution provides the succession after vice president shall be determined by statute, and in 1947 the Speaker of the House was named as next in line, the president pro tempore of the Senate as next followed by the Secretary of State.

The argument at the time was that an elected officer should be eligible. Now, with Mr. Johnson succeeding, we find ourselves again without a vice president, and a man a few days short of 72, Speaker John W. McCormack, next in line, while the second in line is 86 years old.

The age factor is a primary

cause of the rising pressure to adopt a new method of succession, or return to the pre-1947 method, which is favored by ex-President Eisenhower.

Yet it would not give us a vice president pending election. When William H. Harrison died in 1841, after a month in office, succeeded by John Tyler, we were almost four years without a vice president.

There are several arguments lately apparent against the present succession. A foremost one is that a speaker is a veteran legislative officer, and is unlikely to have executive qualifications. In the present technological age any attempt to qualify a speaker, as a vice president may be, would be clumsy at best. Further, a speaker is not infrequently of a party opposing a President, and political continuity would be lost.

As we have seen in recent weeks, continuity, both politi-

cal and governmental, is of great importance in a smooth transfer of power.

Yet it may be suggested we don't necessarily want a Secretary of State as President. Even an outstanding Secretary is unlikely to have a large political following, or to have made a career in politics, and this could be a serious shortcoming in the Presidency.

Ex-President Truman has suggested the electoral college be reconvened to select a vice president, but many see this as a difficult procedure. Late suggestions are that either the House or Senate be empowered to fill a vacant presidency. This would seem to invite jealousy, so many think the whole Congress should be empowered.

It would be a scramble, but psychologically it might add importance to the vice presidency, which we long neglected to do. The present system is disordered and imprudent to the point of national negligence.

THIS WILD WEST by Lucius Beebe

Casts Some Doubts On Intelligence of Horse

One of the great and well established fallacies of the American philosophy, and only removed by the fact of the automobile from being today the universal article of faith it once was, is the belief that the horse is an animal of intelligence, devotion and general good cheer. This belief is still widespread in England where more horses survive per capita and the horse as an agency of aristocratic conduct is still bred and raised for racing and hunting in an aura of reverence that has long since departed this country save, perhaps, in the precincts of Blue Grass Kentucky.

The horse is not and never was an animal of very much intelligence, only of great utilitarian availability and sometimes of esthetic satisfaction. Dogs as a race are infinitely more intelligent and a thousand times as devoted. Porpoises, I am given to know when at the dentist's where *Life* magazine is handy, are perhaps more intelligent than even dogs, although I would not remark this in the hearing of any dog of my acquaintance.

My prejudice against the theory of equine sapience had its origins in my boyhood in Wakefield, Massachusetts, where most of the horses of which there were perhaps 15 at a time on my father's farm regarded me with an overt hostility that may have

marked them as animals of rare taste and discernment although I never thought so at the time. The big farm horses that worked the hay wagons, tadders and manure spreaders were always stepping on my feet when I was sent into their stalls to fetch them and later, when I was old enough to ride, the saddle horses were always falling under me and, once fallen, rolling on the Boy Beebe with lethal intent.

The carriage horses shied from trains and primitive motor cars and one and all of them were reputed, when rescued from the burning barns which were the nightmare of all country people, to run back again to their death. Happily I never encountered this manifestation of perversity, but an alarm of fire in the night still holds for me a terror never derived from the several fires, one of them a major holocaust, through which I have lived since.

Later, as a youth on the streets of Boston, I learned that my low estimate of horse intelligence was shared by a majority of the cabmen, draymen, delivery boys, ice men and mounted police who peopled the daily life of a city dweller.

"They be stupid beasts, dough-brained like a County Kerry Irishman" was the verdict of Fitz, the public hackman whose stand was adjacent to the apartment in

which we lived in winter at the corner of Bay State road and Deerfield street. Fitz hailed from County Mayo and taught me to ride a bicycle.

The first street accident I ever witnessed was when Fitz' horse took fright at former-Governor Curtis Guild's new Pierce Arrow limousine and ran away with his growler careening wildly behind him after it had knocked down and run over its owner. I thought Fitz was killed, but he emerged from the gutter brushing refuse from his person and swearing when he caught up with the beast he'd kill him. It wasn't necessary. The animal killed himself running into an ice wagon at the end of the block. Mrs. Guild, of course, as the provocateur of the contretemps, bought Fitz a new horse.

Nothing I have seen of horses over the years has effected any change in my opinion of their intelligence. Not even my neighbor's saddle horse who apparently stays out in all weathers and doesn't even go inside when God sends the rains that are his idiom of disapproval of golf and which fall at Del Monte on the annual occasion of the Crosby Tournament. I for having a horse at all and think well of my neighbor regard him with the moral approval Thoreau reserved for his neighbor's cow. But I still doubt the beast's intelligence.

AFTER HOURS By John Morley

Eye Witness--Algeria Exploits Reds' Discord

ALGIERS—One of the most significant facts about Algeria today is the competitive base it has created in a kind of Middle-East showdown between the Soviet Union and Red China.

Red China's delegation here announced a \$50 million interest-free loan . . . after the Soviet delegation reported a \$25 million, 2½ per cent interest loan to Algeria. This is the first open challenge of Peking in this area to Khrushchev, far beyond the borders of either Communist giant.

The Algiers press-attaché revealed to this reporter that an Algerian delegation headed by Minister of State Amar Ouzegane and a military mission will be going to Peking.

Ben Bella Creates

Like King Hassan II in Morocco, President Ahmed Ben Bella has created a dictatorship in Algeria. The 43-year-old son of a peasant has gained single-handed control of the National Liberation front (FLN) and in a little more than a year in power has destroyed all opposition . . . except the knife-wielding tough two million Kabylia Berbers, who have always fought Algeria's 8.5 million Arabs.

Ben Bella is in trouble inside as well as outside Algeria.

Within Algeria he is strongly opposed by Berber leader Hocine Ait-Ahmed who shared a French prison cell with Ben Bella for five and one-half years . . . and outside Algeria by King Hassan on his border with Morocco.

From the Berber capitol, Tizi-Ouzou, which I covered today in the rugged hills of the Kabylia mountains, 60 miles northeast of Algiers, Ait-Ahmed called Ben Bella "a filthy crooked Fascist."

At this writing Ben Bella has closed the road to Kabylia with Algerian army regulars . . . and whether this week or next civil strife is seriously complicating the new president's problems.

Inside Algeria Today

Since independence from France last year, Ben Bella has cunningly forced out most of his supporters who helped in the eight-year guerrilla war against the French. Algeria today is a Communist-Socialist state, depending on Ben Bella's mood of the moment, or with whom he is discussing politics.

He refers to his government as "a creation of the workers and for the workers."

He guarantees freedom of speech . . . to those who agree with him. He has seized all European-owned farms whatever the size . . . and will nationalize all large Moslem-owned estates until most of Algeria's 25 million acres of farm land is in government hands . . . for setting up collective farms.

Economy Bankrupt

Over 75 per cent of the two million Algerian manpower is out of work. Ben Bella can not survive without

Quote

MRS. V. HALLADA, Berkeley member, Discriminated-Against Ladies Over Forty—"Forty per cent of the women in the U.S. are over 40. Women over 40 are consistently turned down by employers on the basis of age. By current reasoning they should be forced to hire 40 per cent of their own employees from this discriminated-against group."

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financial aid from abroad and he knows it.

At the time he wooed Russia for the \$25 million loan he praised communism by stating: "We are not Communists, but if Russia did not exist it would be necessary to invent them, because they, like us, fight imperialism."

But at the time he got a \$100-million loan from France, Ben Bella said, "Algerians are the last people in the world who would accept a dictatorship."

When all the cash was safely in his treasury, Ben Bella released this gem, "To me Castro is a brother. . . Nasser is a teacher . . . and Tito an example. Kennedy and De Gaulle, who have already put up most of the money . . . not even get an "honorable mention."

French Driven Out

Probably most of the 100,000 French will be driven out of Algeria by January. Like the exodus from Cuba affected that country's economy,

this will further damage the Algerian economy.

The three French newspapers and all French-owned hotels have been seized by the government. By the time this report reaches our readers in the U.S. all banks and all private industry will be nationalized.

The military crisis with the Berbers and with Morocco may be forcing Ben Bella's hand prematurely. It appears he is bidding for Communist rather than western aid.

The Algerian press is predominantly pro-Communist at this writing. Overtures to Peking and Moscow are out in the open, with an assist toward Cairo.

It seems to this reporter that Ben Bella is trying to challenge Nasser in extremism, so as to win the leadership of North Africa from both Egypt's Nasser and Morocco's Hassan.

"Eye-Witness Report . . . Europe" in next issue of *After Hours*.

Our Man Hoppe

New Year and Good Will

—Art Hoppe

Happy New Year. All our hearts are filled with love. And it strikes me as the ideal occasion for us ace newsmen to pay tribute to our nation's political leaders. Mainly because hardly anybody's going to find time to read the paper today.

So, no matter what anyone who doesn't read this thinks, I wish to say flatly that I like politicians. As a friend said the other day: "I never met a politician I didn't like. Nor an actor I did." And while that may be going a little far (I once met a bit player in an amateur theatrical who talked for several minutes about something other than himself), it's certainly true about politicians.

Of course, some are vain and some are greedy and some are cowards and some are overly-ambitious. But all-at least all I've ever met-are likeable. And if you don't believe me, look at Senator Goldwater.

As you know, half the country loves the Senator with a passion. And the other half hates him with a passion. Half say his brilliance will save us. Half say his stupidity will destroy us. The Senator himself, like most politicians, takes the middle road: "I'm not even sure," he says, "I've got the brains to be President."

See? While you may argue with the statement (after all, we've had a lot of stupid Presidents), you must admit it's a terribly likeable thing to say. It really is.

Thus it's no surprise all us ace newsmen like the Senator. Some may love him and some may hate him. But all of us like him. And I think you would too. He's warm and pleasant. It's not that he seems so dedicated to doing what he thinks is right. It's that he can laugh at himself while he's doing it. And all that surprises me is that people who hate him are surprised they like him.

For I've been sitting here, thinking nostalgically of all the other politicians I've followed around as an ace newsmen. Call me a Pollyanna if you will, but I like them all.

I like Mr. Johnson (he tells grand folksy jokes). And Mr. Nixon (particularly when he's just chatting with you). And Governor Brown (he's wonderfully (cq) human being). And Mr. Rockefeller and Mr. Adlai Stevenson and Mr. Robert Welch of the Birch Society and Mr. Gus Hall of the Communist Party and Mr. DeSapio of Tammany Hall and all the rest.

You may love them or hate them. But I think you have to like them.

And just tinking of how much I like our political leaders will warm my heart all this Christmas Day. It smacks of human brotherhood. Yes, by George, I think there's hope for this sorry old world yet.

Because, after all, who's primarily responsible for the sorry state this old world's in? Our vain, greedy, cowardly, ambitious politicians, that's who. And thus if I may offer you a cheery message, packed with hope of brotherhood, it's that if you can like them, you can like everybody.

Oh, I know what you're going to say. You're going to say, "Even actors?" Well, I know it's that happy time but let's not get carried away.

Morning Report:

Pity the government press agents in the Kremlin tonight. They have a tough job. To give the glamour treatment to fertilizer.

It's possible to write a glowing handout on fertilizer, but it isn't easy. The subject somehow lacks the dash of landing on the moon. But Mr. Khrushchev has decided—and for my money wisely—that while it's nice to get to the moon in 1970, it's better grow wheat with fertilizer next year.

As a matter of fact, their problem is not unlike our own. We can find billions for a space program, but can't get an education bill through Congress to build schools.

Abe Mellinkoff